

INTERCONTINENTAL TERMINALS CO. LLC FIRE DEER PARK, TX¹

BACKGROUND:

- At approximately 10:20AM on March 17, 2019, Intercontinental Terminals Company LLC (ITC) discovered a tank on fire and reported the incident to the National Response Center.
- A total of fifteen (15) tanks could have been potentially involved in the fire, which began in a tank of naphtha in the middle of the tank battery. The other tanks contain gasoline, oil, xylenes, Pygas, and Toluene. The fire has been extinguished.

KEY POINTS:

- Unified Command includes EPA, United States Coast Guard, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Harris County officials. EPA's primary activity is air monitoring and water run-off sampling.
- Responsible Party is conducting handheld air monitoring, mobile air monitoring unit, water sampling, placing containment booms and removing material from Bayou.
- This is an RMP facility with plan updated March 2018. RMP facilities are not required to submit updated risk management plans reflecting changes associated with the Amendments until March 14, 2022. Last EPA RMP inspection was 2014, which resulted in \$3,300 fine. Based on the information currently available to EPA, no RMP-regulated substances appear to have been involved in the fire.
- Environmental Justice communities within the area of the plume have received additional air monitoring to ensure the constituents of the plume are below action levels. Proximity to densely populated City of Houston, odors and smoke.
- Environmental monitoring and sampling of both air and water continues. The Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) continues to provide air monitoring support (deployed March 17, 2019). The Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) arrived on March 21 2019 to conduct community monitoring. Both the ASPECT and TAGA have continued to conduct community monitoring daily.
- ~~With the fire extinguished, it is likely that air concentrations from unconsumed volatile organics could be higher in the ambient air.~~ Unknown volume of material, including foams, entered the nearby Tucker Bayou. EPA is assessing the environmental impact of different firefighting foams in Tucker Bayou and Buffalo Bayou. Thirteen different foams were used to extinguish the fire. An assessment of the foams is being conducted to determine if they contain PFAS. ~~Two initial foams used by ITC did not contain PFOS.~~
- Information is available to the public at [**HYPERLINK** "<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/itc-terminal-fire-update>"] and [**HYPERLINK** "<https://response.epa.gov/ITCTankFire>"]
- **Congressional Interest:** High media and Congressional interest. Community meeting held with Congressman Sheila Jackson Lee was held on March 20, 2019. EPA participated in meeting held with local mayors, county judge, state representatives and Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia of district 29 on Sunday March 25, 2019. At the request of Congressman Al Green (district 8), EPA will provide briefing to the Congressman on March 29, 2019. Various congressional inquiries have been received: Representative Al Green District 9 inquired about the pygas; Representative Sylvia Garcia. Congressman Bryan Babin district 36.

Commented [TH1]: Is all of this information accurate and up to date?

Commented [TH2]: More info?

TALKING POINTS:

¹ OLEM will check for accuracy daily for breaking developments.

- All of the EPA's technical and legal tools are being brought to bear on the ITC situation. That includes issuing on March 23 an enforceable imminent and substantial endangerment order to ITC instructing them, among other things, to prevent additional releases of contaminants to air and water and dispose of all waste.
- To support the State and local responders, the EPA immediately deployed:
 - Emergency Response Personnel to the site and activated the Regional Emergency Operations Center in Dallas.
 - Its plane (ASPECT) to conducted daily flights over the ITC fire and provided monitoring results and maps to the response personnel.
 - TAGA, a self-contained mobile laboratory capable of real-time sampling, which arrived within days of the fire.

OLEM-24